



# PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange ST • Riverside CA 92501

Phone 951.826.5902 • FAX 951.826.5939

INTEGRITY



SERVICE



EXCELLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2012

Contact: **Sgt. Michele Jackson**  
**Central Neighborhood Policing Center**  
**951.353.7968**  
[mjackson@riversideca.gov](mailto:mjackson@riversideca.gov)



## Riverside PSR Irma Ochoa Honored for Community Service

**Riverside, CA** - On Friday, March 16, 2012, Police Service Representative Irma Ochoa was recognized as one of the Latino Network's 2012 honorees in its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebracion de la Mujer Award Program. The annual luncheon commemorates the contribution and accomplishments of outstanding Latinas who have demonstrated a spirit of commitment to their communities in the Inland Empire.

Irma has demonstrated leadership in promoting community safety through education, crime prevention, and mentorship. She serves as the Community Policing Coordinator for the Riverside Police Department's Central Neighborhood Policing Center and specializes in reaching out to the Spanish speaking and deaf communities from the elderly to preschool students, businesses, and service organizations, such as the YMCA. Irma provides presentations on personal safety, creating partnerships between the community and police department, educating students and parents on bullying, fraud, identity theft, neighborhood watch, business watch and crime prevention. Her ability to effectively communicate in both English and Spanish have been instrumental in reaching and further developing the goal of inclusiveness with community policing in Riverside. Irma actively participates with the **El Protector** Soccer clinic program at Villegas Park. She is continually called upon to provide community updates and participate in Spanish speaking community events.

Last year, Irma was instrumental in forming a stronger partnership with the **California School for the Deaf (CSDR)**. She developed a "COPS vs. Deaf Sports Academy" and also volunteered to participate with the school's annual "Silent Sleigh" event. Irma routinely provides presentations to the CSDR students regarding bullying and safety; she is always prepared to provide handout materials and works well with an American Sign Language interpreter during these events. Irma Ochoa has successfully introduced the "**Neighborhood Watch**" (NW) program to many different groups in the City. She has inspired community members to participate in Neighborhood Watch and actually formed four (4) new NW groups. Irma has utilized her newly formed NW groups, along with her thirty-two (32) established groups, to gather and disseminate important and useful intelligence. The communication between law enforcement and the community is crucial to respond to calls for service, identify crime trends and successfully fight crime.

Irma has established herself as a key contact for "**The Village**", a newly formed partnership with the Ramona Neighborhood YMCA, the local Neighborhood Watch group, and Ramona High School. This collaborative effort aims to create and foster a positive relationship between youth, authority figures, and the community. It is expected to reduce juvenile delinquency and exposure to crime and violence.